

File No

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADE MARKS OFFICE
RESPONSE**

Date: August 31 1999

In re: Patent Application

Serial No 09/170,234

Title: ROT PROTECTOR

Filed: 10/13/98

Inventor: John G. Shaw

Examiner: Y Horton Richardson

Class: 3635

Office Action dated: 08/16/99

**The Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trade Marks
Washington D.C. 20231**

Sir/MADAM

In response to the above noted Office Action, kindly amend this application as follows:

In the Claims:

1. (Amended) A wood rot [preventer]protector for use between two intersecting portions of lumber, namely an upper portion of lumber and a lower portion of lumber, and comprising:
 - a elongated protector for attachment over the upper edge of a lower portion of lumber, the protector in turn comprising,
 - a web for overlying the upper edge of the portion of lumber;
 - side walls for extending partially downward from said web along either side of

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the lower portion of lumber;

an upper surface of said web defining a central median strip which is substantially planar and parallel to the upper edge of the lower portion of lumber, and, two side strips running along opposite side edges of said central median strip, said side strips having upper surfaces angled downwardly away from the plane of said median strip, wherein said median strip defines a planar contact area for contact with an upper portion of lumber, and said side strips define ^{7. NAD respect} wedge shaped spaces below such an overlying portion of lumber, said median strip being narrower than said lower portion of lumber and two ^{substantially reducing the area of contact with said upper portion of} ~~substantially~~ reducing the area of contact with said upper portion of lumber and ~~the~~ ^{allowing} flow to take place along said side strips between said lower portion of lumber

said side strips defining inner surfaces for contact with the upper portion of lumber

along the inner surfaces of said side strips, said side strips defining the upper surface of said lower portion of lumber and for maintaining the remainder of said side strips in contact with said lower portion of lumber, wherein the upper surface of said side strips is in contact with the upper surface of said lower portion of lumber